

## Francis Preston Blair to Andrew Jackson, December 6, 1843, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by John Spencer Bassett.

class=MsoNormal>FRANCIS P. BLAIR TO JACKSON.

Washington, December 6, 1843.

My Dear General, Last night Rives and myself were nominated in caucus by more than two to one over Mr. Kendall who combined the strength of Penn of New York and Bryant of New York. 1 The latter put in his strength on Kendall calculating that if I do not get two thirds which was required to nominate, that he would come in by common consent to heal the quarrel in the party. They were all beaten on the first ballot, (80 some odd to 30 odd). Mr. Kendall knew from the first that his sole hope of defeating me was by carrying off all disaffected to Mr. Van Buren's nomination and combining them with the Clay vote. If this combination had succeeded, the result would have been a fatal schism in the Democracy. You will perceive from this that I did not mistake his motive in picking a quarrel with me to throw off his obligations. But I shall let all pass on consideration of his former aspirations. Although he has opened the way to a publication of any correspondence by a deceptive circular sent in by him to the caucus after dark and after its meeting, so that I might not see it. Still I will forbear. I will not gratify the common enemy, to whom he looked for support, by retorting upon him, or disparaging in any way one who claims any connexion with you and the party you built up. He has assailed me anonymously in the Madisonian, and other prints on his behalf have done the same thing, but unless directly and personally attacked, his name shall never appear in any notice I may take of these transactions. It gives me pain that I cannot think well of him. I will therefore try not to think of him at all. So far every thing augurs well. I trust there will be no breach in our party, but if one occurs now it will be rendered almost harmless by Mr. Van

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Burens triumph in congress in the organization of the House. It is better than a nomination by the convention. The latter will only confirm what is now pronounced.

1 William Cullen Bryant, editor of the New York Evening Post.

I hasten to announce my success to you before the final vote in the house, because I know you will enjoy it. No one doubts the result. Cave Johnson has been very zealous and efficient. Your kind letters have had great influence. Many said they would never break down an establishment which you had built up for the party. They would as soon 0273 249 restore the National Bank you had pulled down! So you see what a shield your venerable name is for,

D&apos;r Genl., Yo. mo. af. friend